

# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1948

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:**

Medical Officer of Health:

J. M. AITKEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., to 26/5/48.

A. M. McCALL, L.M.S.S.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., C.P.H., D.P.H., from 1/8/48,

Sanitary Inspector:

P. H. WEBB, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.

## To the Chairman and Councillors of the Chard Borough.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1948.

During the year Chard was completely free from epidemics and the standard of the health of the town is high.

The National Health Service Act came into operation on the 5th July. The transition has been free from major upsets, due to the wholehearted co-operation of the Medical Practitioners in Chard. It is too early to say to what extent the health of the people has been affected but to judge by the numbers who now avail themselves of the services provided it would appear that previously a large number of people were deterred for financial reasons from obtaining necessary advice and treatment.

During the year 95 houses were completed. Progress is being made to alleviate overcrowding but there is still a considerable amount of work to be done. A large number of houses which in more normal times would be considered unfit for human habitation continue to be occupied. It is to be hoped that the Council will soon be allowed to deal with this problem.

Another increasing urgent problem is the housing of the aged. The increasing age of the population together with the greater expectation of life will in the coming years present very great difficulties. Taking the country as a whole when present housing programmes have been completed about 5% of houses should be suitable for old people. We should plan now to avoid a serious situation later.

Work on the new sewage works has been extremely satisfactory and when complete will be a great asset to the town.

I have to thank the Chairman and Councillors for their confidence and support and my fellow officials for their assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. M. McCALL.

#### SECTION A.

ł	Statistics and Social Conditions of the	Area.
	Area 1.030	acres
	Registrar-General's estimate of	acres
	(a) Resident Population, mid 1948	
	(b) Average population appropri-	
	ate to the calculations of death	
	rates	5,237
	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	1,560
ı		£29,631
	Sum represented by a penny rate	£116
	sum represented by a penny rate	2110
	Extracts from Vital Statistics	
	Total	
	Time Diadle III william is	46 43 4 2
	Still Birth Legitimate 6 Still Birth Legitimate 1	$\begin{array}{ccc} 4 & 2 \\ - & 1 \end{array}$
	Still Births Illegitimate —	
	Deaths 54 Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated	27 27
	resident poulation	18.14
	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated aver-	
	age population Deaths from Puerperal Causes	10.31 Nil
	Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1,000 live	2111
1	of age. All infants per 1,000 live	91.5
ı	births Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate	31.5
ı	l live hirths	22.4
ı	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	158.2
ı	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
	Deaths from Cancer (all ages) Deaths from Measles (all ages) Deaths from Whooping Cough (all	Nil
	ages)	Nil Nil
k	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2	
	years of age)	Nil
	Causes of Death	
		M. F.
	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	$\frac{3}{3} - \frac{3}{3}$
	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	3 3 3 5
	Heart Disease	5 4
	Other diseases of circulatory system Bronchitis	$\frac{-}{2}$ $\frac{3}{-}$
	Pneumonia	$\begin{array}{ccc} 2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{array}$
	Other Digestive Disorders	$\frac{-}{2} \frac{1}{-}$
	Nephritis Premature Birth Birth Injuries and Malformations	$\frac{2}{1}$
	D 1 m m 1 11	1 1
	Road Traffic Accidents Other Resp. Diseases	$- 1 \\ - 1$
	Diabetes	1 —
	All other causes	5 6
		27 27

#### SECTION B.

SECTION D.	HOUSING ACTION
General Provision of Health Services for the Area	(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of infor- mal action by the Local Authority
1. (a) Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. M. McCall succeeded Dr. J. M. Aitken as Medical Officer of Health on 1st Aug-	or their Officers Nil (b) Number of houses demolished volun-
ust, 1948. (b) Sanitary Inspector. Mr. A. G. Phelps	tarily or in consequence of informal action Nil
continues to assist Mr. Webb in his duties as Sanitary Inspector.	Action under Statutory Powers during the
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.—No change. (b) Ambulance Facilities.—No change.	Year. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of
(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres.—No new centres have been opened.	the Housing Act, 1936.—Informal notices served, not complied with.
(d) Nursing in the Home.—Nurse Major and Nurse Slocombe.	Report now ready for Housing Committee 14
<ul><li>(e) Hospitals.—No change.</li><li>(f) Nursery School.—No change.</li></ul>	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
SECTION C.	(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.	requiring defects to be remedied 17
1. Water Supplies.—The level in Well "A" (Great Crow Close) is very low and is causing concern as to the yield in the	(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after serving of informal notices 17
summer months. The Council have en-	
gaged a Consulting Engineer who is pre- paring a scheme to supplement the High Level supply.	Proceedings under Section 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil
2. Drainage and Sewerage.—Repairs only.	Proceeding under Section 12 of the Hous-
The Reconstruction of the Sewerage Disposal works is progressing satisfactorily	ing Act, 1936 Nil
and will be completed in 1949. 3.—Drainage Tests and Inspections 73	SECTION E.
Inspections 15 Houses Disinfected 11	Inspection and Supervision of Food.
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected 18	Milk Supply
Water Samples taken 12 SECTION D.	Number of Producers on the Register 7 Number of Producers on the register divided as follows:—
1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses	(1) Distributors only Nil
inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) 39	(2) Distributors who are also producers Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 74	Distributors in Borough who produce in
2. (a) Number of dwellings (included under Sub-head (1) of the above)	Rural 4
which were inspected and re- corded under H, Con: Reg. 1925	Meat and Other Foods  Number of Slaughter Houses Licensed 1
and 1932 Nil (b) Number of inspections made for	Number of Slaughter Houses Licensed 1
the purpose Nil	Government Slaughter House
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary Nil	351 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.
3. Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit	Regular visits have been made to the shops.
for human habitation Nil 4. Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive	Vehicles have been inspected. There are no stalls.
of those referred to under the pre- ceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for	Adulteration
human habitation Nil	Local action taken.

HOUSING ACTION

#### SECTION F.

#### Infectious Diseases

#### Diphtheria Immunisations

The following inoculations were given during 1948:-

1st and 2nd: Under 5 years, 27; 5-14 years, 61; 3rd ,5-14 years, 236.

#### Notifiable Diseases

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitte to Isolation Hospital	d Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever Whooping Cough Measles Puerperal Pyrexia Pneumonia	$egin{array}{c} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \end{array}$	1 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0

#### Analysis of Total Cases Notified

	Under 1 years 1-2 years 2-3 years 3-4 years 4-5 years 10-15 years 110-15 years 20-35 years 35-45 years 45-65 years
Whooping Cough	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0
Measles	$0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0$
Encephalitis	
Lethargica	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1
Scarlet Fever	0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0
Pneumonia	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1
Puerperal Pyrexia	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0

#### **TUBERCULOSIS**

	New C			Cases		Deaths			
<b>Ag</b> e Period		W. Respiratory		. Y. Non-Respiratory		. Respiratory		W. Y. Non-Respiratory	
Under 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1—5	Õ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5—15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15—25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25—35	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	
35—45	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
45—55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
55—65	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
65 and upwards	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	3	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	

Total New Cases, 8. Deaths, 2.

#### **FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

#### Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

. Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	16	2	0
(excluding Outworkers premises)	20	9	1	.0
Total	53	25	3	0

#### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by II.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors Sanitary conveniences (S7.)	1	1	0	0	0
(a) Insufficient	1	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
Total	3	2	0	0	0

### Part 8 of the Act. OUTWORK.

(Section 110 & 111).

	Outworkers list y Section	ses in . sending	secutions to to	rved	su
	of 1st b)	in the	ure list	serv	tio
Nature of work	inec	icit it	of fail	ces	osecu
	Vum n A equ	vo. lefa ists our	vo. or upp	Noti	ros,
	A44	2020	10 m	-	-
Lace & Gloves	27	Nil	Nil	_	_